

pressure in this state, this gap is closed in that the end section of eyelets 14 comes to rest closely on stop surface 9, which prevents loosening of hooks 11 out of their engagement under pressure and unlocking (see Figure 4).

If the connection is to be loosened, snap elements 5 are pressed together on their spring arms 13 in the arrow direction (see Figure 5). Eyelets 14 come to rest with their section facing base body 1 closely on contact surface 10 and shift at the same time in the direction of stop surface 9 until the section facing back towards spring arm 13 rests closely on stop surface 9. During further compression of spring arms 13 they are slightly deformed until the free end of eyelets 14 facing the inner side of spring arms 13 strike this inner side, thus preventing a further pressing together of spring arms 13 and a possibly resulting permanent deformation. The interval of the free end of eyelets 14 to the inner side of spring arms 13 is selected in such a manner that the front arms of snap element 5 facing counterpiece 4 are spread apart to such an extent that hooks 11 loosen out of their engagement on catch elements 12. Then, the connection element can be drawn off from counterpiece 4 and the connection can therefore be loosened. Snap elements 5 return thereafter to their initial position according to Figure 2 by the return force of spring arms 13 or of eyelets 14 formed on them.

Figure 6 shows a second embodiment of the connection element of the invention. The same parts are characterized by the same reference numerals. In distinction to the above-described embodiment, in this instance backwardly directed spring arms 13 of snap elements 5 are at first bent back slightly outward and their ends then bent only in the direction of base body 1.

Gap a is present between free end 18 of this hook-shaped end section 19 and contact surface 10 of formed part 8 and limits the movement of spring arms 13 and therewith of snap elements 5 during the loosening procedure in order to prevent a permanent deformation of snap elements 5.

Claims

1. A connection element as part of a rapid connection unit for hydraulic or pneumatic connection lines with a tubular base body on which two two-armed snap elements are formed that are diametrically opposite one another, laterally spaced and connected at their rocking point by an elastic connection web to the outer wall of the base body and comprise inwardly directed hooks on the free ends of their forwardly facing arms that can reach behind a catch element (undercut) on the outer wall of a counterpiece of the rapid connection unit during establishment of the connection, characterized in that the backwardly facing arms of the snap elements (5) are designed as spring arms (13) whose free ends are bent back and inward in such a manner that that a gap (a) is present between these ends and an opposite contact surface by which gap the rocking movement of the spring arms (13) in the direction of the base body (1) is limited to the degree corresponding to the spreading movement of the front

arms of the snap elements (5) carrying the hooks (11), which spreading movement is necessary for loosening the engagement of the hooks (11) on the catch element (12) of the counterpiece (4).

2. The connection element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the spring arms (13) are bent back on their end sections at first slightly concavely outward and then once in the direction of the base body (1) and the gap (a) limiting the rocking movement is present between the free end of the spring arms (13) and the base body (1).

3. The connection element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the spring arms (13) are bent back inwards twice on their end section so that an open eyelet (14) is formed with the gap (a) between the free end of the open eyelet (14) and the inner surface of the particular spring arm (13) and with a rounding (15) that maintains a gap (b) to the outer wall of the base body (1), wherein during a rocking movement of the spring arms (13) in the direction of the base body (1) at first the gap (b) between the outer wall of the base body (1) and the rounding (15) is closed and in a second stage the gap (a) between the free end of the eyelet (a) and the inner surface of the spring arm (13) is closed.

4. The connection element according to Claim 1, characterized in that level contact surfaces (10) for the ends of the spring arms (13) are formed on the base body (1) and run diametrically opposed to each other in the direction of the central axis.

5. The connection element according to Claim 3, characterized in that level contact surfaces (10) running diametrically opposed to each other in the direction of the central axis and for the rounding (15) of the particular eyelet (14) facing the base body (1) and for the eyelet section also directed towards the base body (1) as well as stop surfaces (9) standing vertically to these contact surfaces (10) and for the end section of the particular eyelet (14) directed towards the inner surface of the spring arms (13) are formed on the base body (1).